

## CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

1           1. A method for using a printer embedded service to allow for fail-  
2 over operation through automatic rerouting of print jobs to a comparable  
3 printer, wherein said method is comprised of the steps of:  
4           preparing a print job;  
5           forwarding said print job to a first printer;  
6           determining if said first printer can complete said print job;  
7           employing a printer embedded service to locate a comparable printer if  
8 said first printer cannot complete said print job; and  
9           transferring said print job to said comparable printer to print said print  
10 job.

1           2. The method, as in Claim 1, wherein said determining step is further  
2 comprised of the step of:  
3           determining if said first printer is out of service.

1           3. The method, as in Claim 2, wherein said out of service determining  
2 step is further comprised of the step of:  
3           determining if said first printer is out of paper.

1           4. The method, as in Claim 2, wherein said out of service determining  
2 step is further comprised of the step of:  
3           determining if said first printer is out of marking agent.

1           5. The method, as in Claim 2, wherein said out of service determining  
2 step is further comprised of the step of:  
3           determining if said first printer is out of a specific type of required  
4 media.

1           6. The method, as in Claim 2, wherein said out of service determining  
2 step is further comprised of the step of:  
3           determining if said first printer is jammed.

1           7. The method, as in Claim 2, wherein said out of service determining  
2 step is further comprised of the step of:  
3           determining if said first printer is off-line.

1           8. The method, as in Claim 1, wherein said employing step is further  
2 comprised of the steps of:  
3           using said first printer to communicate with a network directory;  
4           using said network directory to locate said comparable printer; and  
5           automatically rerouting said print job to said comparable printer.

1           9. The method, as in Claim 8, wherein said network directory is  
2 further comprised of:  
3           a network directory service which records capabilities of its printing  
4 devices as attributes.

1           10. The method, as in Claim 9, wherein said network directory is  
2 further comprised of:  
3           an X.500 compatible directory service.

1           11. A method for using a printing device embedded service to allow  
2 for fail-over operation through automatic rerouting of print jobs to comparable  
3 printing devices, wherein said method is comprised of the steps of:  
4           preparing a print job;  
5           forwarding said print job to a first printing device;  
6           determining if said first printing device can complete said print job;  
7           employing a printing device embedded service to locate a comparable  
8 printing device if said first printing device cannot complete said print job; and  
9           printing said print job.

1           12. The method, as in Claim 11, wherein said determining step is  
2 further comprised of the step of:  
3           determining if said first printing device is out of service.

1           13. The method, as in Claim 12, wherein said out of service  
2 determining step is further comprised of the step of:  
3           determining if said first printing device is out of paper.

1           14. The method, as in Claim 12, wherein said out of service  
2 determining step is further comprised of the step of:  
3           determining if said first printing device is out of marking agent.

1           15. The method, as in Claim 12, wherein said out of service  
2 determining step is further comprised of the step of:  
3           determining if said first printing device is out of a specific type of  
4 required media.

1           16. The method, as in Claim 12, wherein said out of service  
2 determining step is further comprised of the step of:  
3           determining if said first printing device is jammed.

1           17. The method, as in Claim 12, wherein said out of service  
2 determining step is further comprised of the step of:  
3           determining if said first printing device is off-line.

1           18. The method, as in Claim 11, wherein said employing step is  
2 further comprised of the steps of:  
3           using said first printing device to communicate with a network  
4 directory;  
5           using said network directory to locate said comparable printing device;  
6 and  
7           automatically rerouting said print job to said comparable printing  
8 device.

